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Nurturing Families Network

Testimony to the Appropriations Committee at the Public hearing on February 11, 2010

It appears Connecticut's children are going to be forgotten in the states' budget crisis. The projected 30% cuts in the Nurturing families Network program will not allow our program to function in the manner it was intended, to prevent child abuse and neglect. This action will affect approximately 15,000 families and 800 employees of the program. I oppose this action. As a prevention program we assist parents involved in domestic violence, substance abuse, address mental health concerns, raising children with disabilities, living in poverty and social isolation and have a history of abuse. Research says "prevention pays".

I believe our work in the community makes a difference from increasing the immunization rate to assisting parents achieves their high school diploma. One of the families that I am fortunate to witness their life's' struggles is a 20 year old single mother enrolled in college raising her one year old daughter while living on her own. I have watched this mother gather prenatal education, deliver a healthy baby, move out on her own, obtain child support and sole custody, work fulltime while attending college and become a NURTURING PARENT due to our involvement in her life. I have to think "would this outcome of been he same is she didn't have a family support worker?" Where will families be without our guidance and support?

Thank you for listening with your heart and mind. Your vote will make a difference in the lives of our future leaders.